

## **Chief of Engineers Responds to Washington Post Article**

Letter to the Editor  
The Washington Post

I am writing to correct significant inaccuracies your reporters made in their story on Army Corps of Engineers reorganization, USACE 2012. (Corps of Engineers Chief Drafts Plan to Reorganize Agency, Sep 24, 2003) The purpose of our plan is to better serve the American public by reducing the size of our headquarters and using teams to gain efficiencies. We believe this will produce more cost effective, viable solutions to the complex water and infrastructure problems our country faces in the next decade. The plan proposes that members of our Pentagon civilian force who oversee the civil works and military programs be included as active team members. We are also opening up channel of communication between the Corps and other governmental agencies, academia and private industry, as well as our critics who have said our process does not currently address, or we were unmindful, of their concerns or issues.

We are shifting to a regional focus and redesigning our eight existing division offices with their subordinate districts into the operational concept of regional business centers. This shift will enable them to work more in concert with each other and concentrate technical expertise to broaden and enhance the range of services and quality within the region at a lower cost to the ultimate customer, the American taxpayer. The proposal for the Corps to change its approach to the budget and authorization process will provide our overseers in the Pentagon, Office of Management and Budget and the Congress better information on the future water resources challenges that the nation will be facing. There are no proposals for Congress to consolidate that process.

And last, any implication that the military is trying to strengthen its hand is just untrue.

The process to get to this plan has been completely open. I believe that everyone who reads the final release of the plan next month will see that we are aggressively endeavoring to address many of concerns that have been raised over the past few years by our customers, partners, stakeholders and critics.

Today the public servants of your Army Corps of Engineers are helping people recover from Hurricane Isabel, assisting the people of Iraq get back on their feet with oil and electricity, supporting various national security efforts and are actively involved in restoring and protecting the nation's environment. Bottom line is the reorganization plan is not about the Corps but about enhanced service to the American people.

Sincerely,  
Bob Flowers  
Chief of Engineers  
US Army Corps of Engineers

For more information...

- [Corps of Engineers Chief Drafts Plan to Reorganize Agency](#) - Washington Post  
(Registration may be required)